

# KEY TO THE INDIAN SPECIES OF THE GENERA *ORTHRIUS* GORHAM AND *XENORTHRIUS* GORHAM (COLEOPTERA: CLERIDAE: CLERINAE)<sup>1</sup>

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**Key words:** Coleoptera, Cleridae, *Orthrius*, *Xenorthrius*

Dichotomous keys are provided for the identification of the 17 species of the genus *Orthrius* Gorham and the 5 species of the genus *Xenorthrius* Gorham known from India. *Orthrius stevensi* Corporaal is synonymised with *Orthrius binotatus* (Fisher), New synonymy.

## INTRODUCTION

The genera *Orthrius* Gorham and *Xenorthrius* Gorham presently contain 58 and 14 species, respectively, and are generally distributed throughout the Indo-Australian region. Both *Orthrius* and *Xenorthrius* belong to a large group of genera in the subfamily Clerinae of the family Cleridae in which the eyes are coarsely granulate (facet diameter 0.30 mm or greater). At present, 22 genera are included in this group (Corporaal 1950: 97-127). However, the limits of these genera are poorly-defined, and further research will probably reduce the number of genera recognised in this group through synonymy. At the present time, I do not think that the single character given above is sufficient justification for erecting a tribe for the species of this group, as this character is strongly correlated with nocturnal habits and hence is probably highly convergent.

*Orthrius* and *Xenorthrius* both belong to a section of this generic group in which the elytra are more or less robust and the elytral punctures are relatively small. Separation of genera in this group is particularly problematic, and it seems probable that the African genera *Gyponyx* Gorham and *Aphelochroa* Quedenfeldt will

eventually have to be placed in synonymy with *Orthrius*.

The only other genus of this group which is found in India is *Opilo* Latreille, which is presently under review by other workers. Species of *Orthrius* and *Xenorthrius* may be separated from species of *Opilo* by examination of the terminal segment of the maxillary palpi, which is triangular in *Opilo* but cylindrical in *Orthrius* and *Xenorthrius*. Species of *Orthrius* and *Xenorthrius* may be separated by means of the key given below. Complete bibliographic information for all species may be found in Corporaal (1950: 123-126).

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

I have examined specimens of the species of these genera from the collections of the following institutions: The Natural History Museum, London; Hope Department of Entomology, Oxford University; Institut Royal des Sciences Naturelles de Belgique; Museo Civico di Storia Naturale, Genova; Museum of Comparative Zoology, Harvard University; Museum National d'Histoire Naturelle, Paris. In all cases, I have based my identifications of species on personal examination of original type specimens. Distributions of species of these genera are poorly known at present, and it is hoped that the present paper stimulates interest in this neglected field of clerid research.

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KEY FOR SEPARATION OF *Orthrius* AND *Xenorthrius*

1. Pronotum deeply and rugulose punctate laterally, almost strigose; elytral punctures separated by small tubercles . . . . . Genus *Xenorthrius* Gorham  
 Pronotum finely and sparsely punctate laterally, smooth, shining; elytral punctures not as above . . . . . Genus *Orthrius* Gorham

Genus *Orthrius* Gorham

*Orthrius* Gorham (1876: 74; 1892: 737); Schenkling (1903: 29, 45); Chapin (1924: 208, 211); Corporaal (1950: 123-126).

Type-species *Orthrius cylindricus* Gorham (by original designation).

KEY TO INDIAN SPECIES OF *Orthrius* GORHAM

1. Elytra distinctly striatopunctate, at least at base . . . . . 2  
 - Elytra finely punctate at base, shining . . . . . 12  
 2. Pronotum with two or three distinct tubercles . . . . . 3  
 - Pronotum lacking such tubercles . . . . . 4  
 3. Pronotum bituberculate; elytra uniformly reddish-brown. . . . . *Orthrius tuberculicollis* Schenkling  
 - Pronotum trituberculate; elytra with two yellow maculae . . . . . *Orthrius dorsalis* Schenkling  
 4. Elytra uniformly reddish-brown, in one species with a single pair of black median maculae . . . . . 5  
 - Elytra yellowish-brown or black . . . . . 8  
 5. Legs entirely reddish-brown . . . . .  
 . . . . . *Orthrius rufotestaceus* Schenkling  
 - Legs at least in part black . . . . . 6  
 6. Legs and abdomen entirely black . . . . .  
 . . . . . *Orthrius tarsalis* Gorham  
 - Legs and abdomen in part reddish-brown . . . . . 7  
 7. Elytral punctures becoming irregular by apical third . . . . .  
 . . . . . *Orthrius striatopunctatus* Schenkling  
 - Elytral punctures in rows from base to apices . . . . .  
 . . . . . *Orthrius brachialis* Gorham  
 8. Elytra robust, wider than pronotum . . . . . 9  
 - Elytra elongate, as wide as pronotum . . . . . 10  
 9. Elytra black with three yellowish-white maculae which attain suture . . . . . *Orthrius subsimilis* White  
 - Elytra black with two yellowish-white maculae which do not attain suture *Orthrius abdominalis* (Germar)  
 10. Each elytron yellowish-brown with three black maculae . . . . . *Orthrius sexplagiatus* Schenkling  
 - Each elytron yellowish-brown with two black maculae . . . . . 11

11. Pronotum very dark brownish-black . . . . .  
 . . . . . *Orthrius sufasciatus* (Westwood)  
 - Pronotum yellowish-brown . . . . .  
 . . . . . *Orthrius bengalus* (Westwood)  
 12. Elytra yellow with brown maculae . . . . . 13  
 - Elytra reddish-brown with white maculae . . . . . 15  
 13. Each elytron largely yellow, with a single black apical macula . . . . . *Orthrius posticalis* (Westwood)  
 - Elytra not as above . . . . . 14  
 14. Elytra laterally brownish-black, yellow along the suture . . . . . *Orthrius elongatus* Corporaal  
 - Elytra predominantly brownish-black with two transverse yellow maculae . . . . .  
 . . . . . *Orthrius binotatus* (Fisher)  
 15. Elytra bimaculate . . . . . *Orthrius madurensis* Gorham  
 - Elytra trimaculate . . . . . 16  
 16. Ground colour of elytra distinctly paler in colour than that of pronotum . . . . . *Orthrius grandjeani* Pic  
 - Ground colour of elytra and pronotum concolorous.. . . . .  
 . . . . . *Orthrius feae* Gorham

Genus *Xenorthrius* Gorham

*Xenorthrius* Gorham (1892: 733; 1893: 575); Schenkling (1903: 29, 46); Corporaal (1950: 126).

Type-species *Xenorthrius mouhoti* Gorham (by original designation).

KEY TO INDIAN SPECIES OF *Xenorthrius* GORHAM

1. Elytral apices rounded . . . . . 2  
 - Elytral apices truncate, bidentate . . . . .  
 . . . . . *Xenorthrius truncatus* Gorham  
 2. Elytra brown with yellowish-white maculae . . . . . 3  
 - Elytra uniformly reddish-brown . . . . . 4  
 3. Elytra with two transverse white maculae narrowly joined along the suture; apices black . . . . .  
 . . . . . *Xenorthrius mouhoti* Gorham  
 - Elytra with two transverse white maculae not joined along suture; apices white . . . . .  
 . . . . . *Xenorthrius ephippiatus* Gorham  
 4. Length/width ratio of elytra greater than 3.0:1.0 . . . . .  
 . . . . . *Xenorthrius robustus* Corporaal  
 - Length/width ratio of elytra equal to or less than 3.0:1.0 . . . . . *Xenorthrius geniculatus* Gorham

## DISCUSSION OF NEW SYNONYMY

I have examined a large number of

specimens of *Orthrius binotatus* (Fisher) collected throughout the range of this species (India east to China and south to New Guinea). In general, the coloration of this species is very variable, but the surface sculpturing is not. The specimens from India described as *Orthrius stevensi* by Corporaal (1926: 180-181) and preserved in the Natural History Museum, London, fall within the range of both colour and sculptural variation of *Orthrius binotatus*, and on the basis of this evidence I have no difficulties in synonymising *Orthrius stevensi* Corporaal with the previously-described species *Orthrius binotatus* (Fisher), New synonymy.

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